

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACES

If you buy your own coverage or are currently uninsured, you will want to learn about the new Health Insurance Marketplaces.

The new Health Insurance Marketplace is an online marketplace where consumers can choose among numerous quality private health insurance plans and where tax credits are widely available to make the plan you choose affordable.

**Key Dates: October 1, 2013—Enrollment in the Marketplace begins
January 1, 2014—Health coverage in the Marketplace begins
March 1, 2014—Open enrollment in the Marketplace ends**

Here is an overview of some key things to know:

- Every health insurance plan in the Marketplace will offer comprehensive coverage, from doctors to medications to hospital visits.
- The Marketplace will enable you to easily compare your insurance options based on price, coverage, quality and other features important to you.
- All information on the health plans must be in easy-to-understand language with no fine print.
- Every health insurance plan in the Marketplace is required to meet basic standards, including quality standards and access to a range of doctors and clinicians.
- Clear information on plan premiums, deductibles, and out-of-pocket costs must be provided before you decide to enroll, so you know what you are buying.
- Every health insurance plan in the Marketplace will provide free coverage for preventive services.

Strong Consumer Protections:

- No denial for pre-existing conditions
- No lifetime or annual limits
- A cap on your out-of-pocket costs
- Women cannot be charged more than men for the same plan.

Tax Credits to Make Your Premiums Affordable:

- More than 80% of those buying coverage in the Marketplaces will qualify for premium tax credits, which will cut what you pay in premiums.
- The tax credits are provided immediately and directly to the health plan you have chosen—immediately lowering what you pay in monthly premiums.
- The tax credits are available on a sliding scale for those with incomes between 100% and 400% of the poverty level (between \$23,500 to \$94,200 for a family of four in 2013).

Consumer Assistance and Enrollment Help:

- As of October 1, you can apply for insurance in the Marketplace in several ways:
 - Online by visiting www.healthcare.gov;
 - By calling 1-800-318-2596 or 1-855-889-4325 for hearing impaired callers using TTY/TDD technology;
 - Navigators, such as community organizations, that will provide impartial, unbiased assistance in evaluating which plan best meet your needs. Click on the following link to find enrollment assistance locally: <https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/>

What You Can Do Now:

- Visit www.healthcare.gov to learn more about the Marketplace and to sign-up for updates from the United States Department of Health and Human Services
- Make a list of questions you have before it's time to choose your plan.
- Make sure you understand how insurance works, including deductibles, out-of-pockets maximums, copayments, etc.
- Gather basic information about your household income as this will help determine whether you qualify for a tax credit.
- Find out from your employer whether they plan to offer health insurance, especially if you work for a small business.